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CIH - CI - Base 5 16-076

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: AUG 2001

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRIED CI WHB 76-076.4

//BOLIVIA: THE ASSASSINATION THIS WEEK IN PARIS OF GENERAL JOAQUIN ZENTENO, BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE, BEARS A MARKED SIMILARITY TO THE MURDER OF COLONEL RAMON TRABAL, THE URUGUAYAN MILITARY ATTACHE, WHO WAS SHOT IN HIS PARIS APARTMENT IN DECEMBER 1974.//4

//BOTH MEN HAD DISTINGUISHED CAREERS IN ERADICATING LEFTIST SUBVERSIVE GROUPS IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES BEFORE BEING POSTED TO PARIS. TRABAL HAD SERVED AS CHIEF OF MILITARY SECURITY IN URUGUAY AND HAD EXERCISED A PRIMARY ROLE IN PLANNING AND DIRECTING THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE TUPAMAROS. HE REPORTEDLY RECEIVED A DIPLOMATIC ASSIGNMENT AT THE REQUEST OF ARMY SUPERIORS WHO RESENTED HIS AMBITION AND DEMONSTRATED ABILITY. ZENTENO, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAD ACHIEVED INTERNATIONAL PROMINENCE IN 1967 FOR TRACKING DOWN AND CAPTURING CHE GUEVARA. SUBSEQUENTLY HE ROSE TO THE POSITION OF COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES--THE SECOND MOST POWERFUL POSITION IN BOLIVIA--BUT WENT INTO "GOLDEN EXILE" IN 1973 FOLLOWING A SERIOUS DISAGREEMENT WITH PRESIDENT BANZER OVER ADMINISTRATIVE AND POLITICAL

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MATTERS.//4

//IN EACH CASE THE ASSAILANTS WERE UNIDENTIFIED, AND PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN TERRORIST ENTITIES CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACTION. A GROUP CALLING ITSELF THE RAUL SENDIC INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE (NAMED FOR THE FOUNDER OF THE TUPAMAROS) TOOK CREDIT FOR TRABAL'S "EXECUTION," WHILE THE "CHE GUEVARA INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE" NOW PROCLAIMS ITS TRIUMPH IN ELIMINATING ZENTENO.//4

//IT IS POSSIBLE THAT EITHER OR BOTH ACTIONS ARE THE WORK OF AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION, BASED IN ARGENTINA, THAT CALLS ITSELF THE REVOLUTIONARY COORDINATING JUNTA.

THIS GROUP IS

LED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF SUBVERSIVE GROUPS IN BOLIVIA, URUGUAY, PARAGUAY, CHILE, BRAZIL, AND ARGENTINA AND DEDICATED TO THE VIOLENT OVERTHROW OF MILITARY-BACKED GOVERNMENTS IN THOSE COUNTRIES. MEMBERS OF BANKING FIRMS IN BUENOS AIRES WHO HAVE BEEN THE VICTIMS OF TERRORIST KIDNAPING OPERATIONS HAVE SAID PRIVATELY THAT THE RANSOM MONEY THEY PAID NEVER REACHED LATIN AMERICA, BUT WAS PAID IN GOLD AND DEPOSITED IN BANKS IN BEIRUT, LEBANON AND IN UNMARKED SWISS

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ACCOUNTS IN ITALY.//Y

//IN LATIN AMERICA TERRORISTS HAD GENERALLY CONFINED THEIR
 ACTIONS TO THEIR OWN COUNTRY. MANY STUDENTS OF INTERNATIONAL
 TERRORISM, HOWEVER, NOW PREDICT THAT OPERATIONS WILL BE MODELED ON
 THE ACTIVITIES OF MIDDLE EASTERN SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZATIONS AND MAY
 OCCUR ANYWHERE. PARIS HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A CENTER FOR INTER-
 NATIONAL TERRORIST ACTIVITY, AND WAS REPORTEDLY TO BE THE SITE OF
 A WORLD CONGRESS OF SUBVERSIVE GROUPS IN OCTOBER 1974.

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RICHARD D. KOVAR

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